

08/072,206

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Council* 13 12 18. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the electrical means comprises a probe pin used to electrically contact the probe viewed by the video microscope in order to determine the identity of the probe.--

Please cancel claim 9 and non-elected claims 6, 7 and 11 without prejudice or disclaimer.

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 8, 10 and 13-18 are pending in this application. Claim 8 has been amended herein and claims 13-18 have been newly added. Favorable consideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-5 and 10. Furthermore, claim 8 has been identified as being allowable subject to being amended to overcome the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Dependent claims 13-18 have been added to define further that which the applicants regard as their invention. Support for claims 13-15 and 18 is found, for example, in the paragraph bridging pages 20-21 of the present specification. Support for claims 16-17 is found at page 22, lines 6-20. Claims 13-18 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as the claims from which they depend, as well as based on the additional limitations included therein.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner indicates that it is not clear from the claim language exactly which heights are being measured and how such heights relate to the length of the probe tip. Claim 8 has been amended to clarify that it is the heights of the distal end and shank which are being measured in accordance with the invention. The difference between the height of the distal end and the height of the shank is then calculated in order to determine the length of the probe tip. It is respectfully submitted that claim 8, as amended, clearly defines applicants' invention. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 based on Stewart et al. and Sato et al. This rejection is now moot in view of the cancellation of claim 9.

For at least the above reasons, claims 1-5, 8, 10 and 13-18 are believed to be allowable and the application in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

In the event any fees are due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, P.L.L.



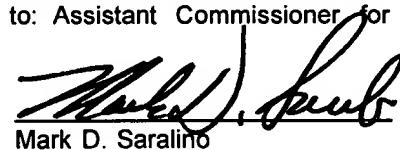
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: December 6, 1996



Mark D. Saralino